

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE
IN 17095

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GROUP 1
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DIST 21 DECEMBER 1967

COUNTRY: NORTH VIETNAM

16905-54-4

DOI : 1967

SUBJECT: NORTH VIETNAM ARMY DRAFT PROCEDURES IN LAO CAI

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ACQ : (18-19 DECEMBER 1967)

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SOURCE :

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- MALES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 20 AND 45 ARE DRAFTED FROM THE LAO CAI AREA. NO ONE UNDER AGE 20 IS CONSCRIPTED. ARMY RECRUTS LEAVE THE AREA ONCE EVERY FEW MONTHS IN GROUPS OF FOUR OR FIVE AT A TIME. THE STANDARD PERIOD OF SERVICE FOR THESE RECRUTS IS THREE

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YEARS; BUT NOT ALL ARE RELEASED FROM SERVICE AT THE END OF THIS TERM. EACH NORTH VIETNAMESE CITIZEN IN THE AREA IS FORCED TO CONTRIBUTE ONE DONG FOR FOOD AND SUPPORT OF THE RECRUITS EACH TIME A GROUP OF THEM LEAVES THE AREA.

2. THE FAMILIES OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS "NOW THAT THEIR RELATIVES ARE GOING SOUTH. THE SOLDIERS THEMSELVES ARE PERMITTED TO WRITE OF THEIR LOCATIONS IN THEIR CORRESPONDENCE WITH THEIR FAMILIES. FAMILY MEMBERS ARE NORMALLY ADVISED WHEN THE SOLDIER IS KILLED IN THE SOUTH, BUT NOTIFICATION MAY BE DELAYED BY AS MUCH AS TWO YEARS. SUCH NOTIFICATION NEVER INCLUDES THE DATE OR PLACE OF DEATH.

3. THE WIFE OF A SOLDIER RECEIVES 20 DONG PER MONTH PLUS 10 DONG FOR EACH CHILD WHILE HER HUSBAND IS AWAY FROM HOME. IF THE HUSBAND IS KILLED IN ACTION, SHE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE THIS STIPEND, AND ALSO RECEIVES AN ADDITIONAL LUMP SUM PAYMENT OF 300 DONG. NO MONTHLY STIPEND IS GIVEN TO THE FAMILIES OF THE UNMARRIED SOLDIERS; BUT THE PARENTS RECEIVE 300 DONG IF THEIR SONS ARE KILLED IN ACTION. THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ANNOUNCE CUMULATIVE LOSSES STATEMENTS; BUT MERELY INFORMS EACH INDIVIDUAL FAMILY. THE FAMILY IS INFORMED BY A CADRE AND PRESENTED WITH A HO CHI MINH

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4. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE REGULAR ARMY SOLDIERS WHICH ARE SENT INTO LAOS AND SOUTH VIETNAM ARE THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN JUDGED POLITICALLY RELIABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY. OTHERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE COMING FROM FAMILIES PREVIOUSLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE FRENCH, SERVE ONLY IN NORTH VIETNAM. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THIS IS BASED ON LOCAL RUMORS.)

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5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE, CINCPAC, ARPAC, PACAF, PACFLT.

[REDACTED] 3.5(c)

REPORT CLASS SECRET ~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~